Providence 11th mo 23d / 62

Dear Cousin

As Joseph will be communicating with thee in relation to the butter I will embrace the opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of thy very acceptable notes, which by the bye I had been expecting for some time, but concluded thou wast waiting to inform about the butter – We were sorry to hear that Mary had been so much of an invalid – and William too was a long time in the Hospital, but it must be a satisfaction to thee, his feeling so well satisfied that he is in the way of his duty – there are very many who have expressed themselves in the same way and we cannot but think they are sincere however strange it may seem to us – We have heard nothing from our William since the sixth month, and then indirectly – I have had a great deal

and accept and realize to be brothers across the ocean – but still I feel a cough and they are very anxious about him – they were in great affection when the two great boys left them at the Boarding School, as they call it – the school is very large this being nearly twice as large as Friends School – I do not remember the date of my last letter to thee and so may repeat some things that I wrote then – We had a succession of company through the summer Anna Sherman a week, Lizzie Collins a few days, Susie's from Burlington N.J. two weeks, Charley Grinnell a few days &c – and last in the sixth month, we had a visit from Emily Stevens, and a friend of hers who came with her from Boston – Mary Albany a very interesting young lady, and Elisa Fruchon was here at the same time – after they left Elisa went to the Shaker Village and stayed about ten days – since then we have been trying to settle down and do the necessary fall work, but the days are so short and we have so many interruptions in the city that it takes a considerable time to accomplish much – Dr Joseph's family are in pretty comfortable health now Caline is able to ride every pleas

of anxiety on his account - and it is so tantalizing to hear as we have done for three months past that they were about taking Mobile, and it is not yet done - Elisa is not knitting sacks just now, but is very busy with various kinds of sewing for ourselves and others S. & J. take German and French lessons and Susan learns a Latin recitation, so that they go to school nearly every day and although they do not stay very long it takes up a good deal of time - I am glad thee can look back upon thy visit to us with satisfaction, it was truly gratifying to us - and I was so glad to have my daughters become better acquainted with thee now they are old enough to appreciate it - we are going on much in the old way, all enjoying pretty good health and many other blessings which we desire to be thankful for, and we do really have a good deal of enjoyment in our family circle and with our friends - but our prospects in relation to business and the wherewithal to keep the machinery in motion is still dark and uncertain - I suppose however it is only faith that is wanting, when we look on the dark side - We have many kind friends sending us presents - have just received four barrels of apples which we are enjoying very much, and I may here tender the thanks of the family for the cheese thou went so kind as to send, I dare say it is very good but can speak more confidently on that point when it comes to hand we shall eat it with more satisfaction on account of its being of thy make - We attended Swanzey Quarterly Meeting about two weeks since, met there Uncle Daniel & Aunt Mary Shove and Aunt R Davis the latter seemed very bright more so I thought than at Y Meeting time - Sister Elizabeth was there too she has not ventured so far from home